SUSAN E. BIRCH STATEMENT ON COLORADO HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION SUPPORT OF MEDICAID EXPANSION

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DENVER – **January 28, 2013** – Earlier this month, Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper announced plans to contain costs while expanding Medicaid. Below is a statement from Susan E. Birch, executive director at the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing in response to the Colorado Hospital Association's continued commitment to allow the provider fee funding to be used to finance expanding coverage for more Coloradans.

"The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing appreciates the continued commitment of the Colorado Hospital Association and its member hospitals to expanding Medicaid to cover more Coloradans. The groundwork done through the passage of the Colorado Health Care Affordability Act (HB 09-1293) allowed more Coloradans to be covered by public health insurance programs through a hospital provider fee. Our experience gained through this expansion will allow us to cover more Coloradans while continuing efforts to contain costs and make health care more efficient. We are grateful that our hospital partners are willing to once again help finance coverage for more Coloradans as we expand Medicaid from 100% FPL to 133% FPL."